

Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:



Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at
<http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from
Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Interagency Dispatch / Reporting Coordination

Overall goal:

To share data more efficiently between police, fire, ambulance, and state agencies through the use of a centralized common, comprehensive crash-reporting database.

Technical approach:

In-vehicle digital cameras and pen-based notebook computers with in-car printers are mounted in all police vehicles for crime scene and accident data collection, input and downloading to a central database for immediate availability to other vehicles responding to the scene, including emergency management personnel. Information is sent via radio frequency to Dane County and then transmitted along fiber to the in-house computer system. Dane County will soon be installing Global Positioning Stations (GPS) in vehicles to provide more information regarding specific accident location.

Current status:

All police vehicles have notebook computers installed. The software development is being completed and tested. The database information is available and shared throughout Dane County.

Location / geographic scope:

All marked vehicles in Dane County, Wisconsin have the notebook computers.

Agencies involved:

Emergency Management System agencies, such as ambulance and police, Sun Prairie City Police and the Office of Transportation Safety.

Cost information:

The cost is approximately \$8,000 to equip a squad car. Software development is on-going, so no dollar amount is currently available. Seed money to establish this program came from Sun Prairie City Police with additional funding for development and implementation coming from Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway Transportation Safety



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Key contacts:

Have goals been achieved?

Solution timeline:

Administration.

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The project is successful and the system is being enhanced with more capabilities.

Sun Prairie is the test site for this effort, and if successful, will be deployed throughout Wisconsin.

